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New England. What It Is and What It Is To Be. Edited by GEORGE FRENCH. (Boston: Boston Chamber of Commerce. 1911. Pp. xii, 431. \$1.50.)

This volume, edited and published under the direction of the Boston Chamber of Commerce, is symbolic of the high rank of that organization. The book, compared with others of its kind, is of exceptional merit. It expresses the desire to acquaint the people of New England with their own section of the United States, and to furnish them with the means to acquaint others. It does not presume to be an historical or descriptive work resulting from the research of a single author. It represents the contributions of many men, a few of whom are recognized as men of research and authorship, and others of whom as men of experience, in the fields of their respective contributions. It is neither a history of achievements, a catalogue of opportunities nor an estimate of the future—though it is something of each. While not entirely free from self-consciousness, the facts and possibilities presented—and this is its distinction among books of the kind—are soberly stated. The volume considers among others the following phases of New England: manufacturing; agriculture; commerce; water-power; soils; forestry; transportation; workmen; good roads; industrial Boston; possibilities of future development.

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History of Fall River, Massachusetts. Compiled by HENRY M. FENNER. (Fall River: Fall River Merchants' Association. 1911. Pp. 106. \$.50.)

This brochure was prepared under the direction of the historical committee of the Merchants' Association upon the occasion of the cotton centennial, held at Fall River last June, to celebrate the one-hundredth anniversary of the beginning of cotton manufacturing in that place. It contains a description of the physical environment of Fall River, an historical account of its settlement and growth as a town and later as a city, and a brief sketch of early cotton manufacturing and other industries, of the development of water power, and of the local banks, schools, churches and municipal departments. The committee expresses the hope that its work may be the basis of a more extensive his-

tory of Fall River. Certainly the importance of the city and its rôle in the industrial development of New England warrant a more careful study than this hurried compilation which was prepared and published in less than two months. It is to be hoped that the larger work will trace fully the development of the cotton industry in all its phases. To exact this of the present sketch, perhaps, would be unfair; as an attractive souvenir of an interesting occasion it is to be commended, both for the civic spirit which inspired it and for the mechanical excellence of its execution.

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American Commercial Legislation before 1789. By ALBERT ANTHONY GIESECKE. (New York: D. Appleton and Company. 1910. Pp. 167. \$1.50.)

The subject of commercial legislation in the thirteen colonies is one which exhibits somewhat unique obstacles to integral treatment. To avoid a successive rehearsal of the acts of each colony several plans suggest themselves. The legislation of the colonies might be regarded as a complement to the mercantilist navigation and trade laws of the Empire, or treated as the roots of our national tariff policy, with selection and emphasis of features appropriate in each case; or all the different regulations actually made might simply be classified and catalogued. Dr. Giesecke has employed the method last named; and it is perhaps the only one suited to so complete a treatment as he has undertaken. In describing each class of acts he has used general statements as far as identities or similarities could be found in the policy of any two or more colonies; but the fundamental difficulty of having to recount in order the doings of particular colony after colony could not be escaped, and makes the book somewhat hard reading.

The author begins by reviewing briefly, and on the whole very well, the English mercantilist commercial policy and the character and machinery of control exercised over the colonies in the interest of that policy. It seems unfortunate, however, that "the belief that wealth consisted in money,—gold and silver" should be unqualifiedly stated as one of the two fundamentals of mercantilism. Import and export duties; bounties, inspection laws, and